

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 15-17 are in the case.

**I. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS**

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by GB '609. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Muller et al.

In response, and without conceding to the merit of these rejections, claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejections is accordingly respectfully requested.

**II. ALLOWED CLAIMS**

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 15-17 have been allowed. Claims 15-17 are now the only remaining claims in the case. Allowance of the application is accordingly respectfully requested.

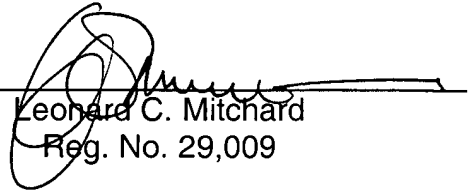
Favorable action on this application is awaited.

SOLOMON et al  
Appl. No. 09/740,928  
March 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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